

Reason for probe is secret

Jury to question ex-police chief

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Former Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso, who was named in U. S. District Court as the recipient of \$30,000 in bribes to protect illegal pinball operations, goes before a federal grand jury here Sept. 13.

Giarrusso, who denied accepting any pinball bribe money, confirmed he was invited to appear before the federal grand jury by U. S. Atty. Gerald J. Gallinghouse.

Neither Gallinghouse nor Giarrusso would elaborate on the reasons for the grand jury invitation.

Yesterday in the public bribery trial of Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison and two others, Lawrence Lagarde, a partner in TAC Amusement Co., testified he had given Giarrusso six payments of \$5,000 each in 1969.

Earlier in the trial, former police Capt. Frederick A. Soule Sr., in a taped statement, said Giarrusso was "getting taken care of."

The former superintendent, in his second press conference in two days,

yesterday said the charges are false and he is ready to take the stand any time.

"I have never held a conversation with Larry Lagarde in my life about payoffs, tipoffs or anything else," he said.

Lagarde, an original defendant with Garrison but granted a separate trial, said he made the payoffs at the request of the late John Elms Sr., then TAC owner.

"My answer to that," Giarrusso said, "is dead men can't talk."

"I'd have been better off having been charged," Giarrusso said. "I'd at least have had a chance to defend myself in court."

He said he has never been contacted by the Internal Revenue Service or the U.S. attorney's office about pinball bribery.

Giarrusso also denied he asked for the chance to appear before the federal grand jury.



—States-Item photo.
Joseph I. Giarrusso